

CHAPTER 2

LAND USE DECISIONS AND PROGRAM GUIDANCE

This chapter presents the resource condition and use objectives, resource and land use allocations, management actions, standard operating procedures, and monitoring requirements for the resource programs addressed in the RMP.

Resource condition and use objectives reflect the desired effect the BLM and public would like to see as a result of combined management activities and resource (needed) decisions.

Resource or land use allocations provide a mix of allowable, limited, or excluded resource uses. The terms and conditions of such use are based on either resource condition and use objectives or other program or multiple use goals. The management area (MA) allocations fit into this scheme.

Specific management actions are needed to achieve resource condition and use objectives, provide for resource or land use allocations, or meet other program or multiple use goals. Management actions provide an insight into the work which must be accomplished for plan implementation. The actions are generally listed in order of importance.

Standard operating procedures provide information and guidance for each resource program which is applicable to the entire resource area or is not addressed in the previous categories.

For each resource there are a series of items that will be monitored. Each item is evaluated by location, technique for data gathering, unit of measure, and frequency and duration of data gathering. When duration is not specifically stated, the duration is for the life of the plan.

The information states the event that will signal an unacceptable impact to the resource. When such an event is noted, the management action associated with the event will be evaluated. If the adverse impact can be corrected by a management action that is within the scope of the RMP, the change will be implemented. If the adverse impact can be corrected only by a management action that is outside the scope of the RMP, the management change will be subject of a formal RMP amendment.



SOIL, AIR, AND WATER PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objective

1. Meet air and water quality standards established by the State of Montana.
2. Reduce soil movement and improve water quality to acceptable levels on the following known problem sites:
 - a. Black Bear Creek
 - b. Braziel Creek
 - c. Keno Creek
 - d. Marcum Mountain
 - e. McElwain Creek
3. Maintain soil productivity.
4. Maintain adequate soil cover to prevent accelerated surface movement.

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. Maintenance and/or enhancement of water and air quality and site productivity will be pursued on all public lands in the resource area.
2. Maintenance and/or enhancement of riparian values will be emphasized in MAs 1 (Major Riparian) and 2 (Multiple Use Riparian) totaling 3,500 acres.

C. Management Actions

1. Provide recommendations into allotment management plans (AMPs), compartment management plans (CMPs), etc. to achieve resource condition objectives.
2. Prioritize and develop necessary activity plans to correct soil/water problems identified for Black Bear Creek, Braziel Creek, Keno Creek, McElwain Creek, and Marcum Mountain.
3. Prepare annual report to Montana Water Quality Bureau on the application and effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

D. Standard Operating Procedures

1. Soil, Water, and Air

Soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated and monitored on a case by case basis as a part of project level planning. The level of such evaluation and monitoring will be based upon the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of soil, water, and air resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached to proposed projects as appropriate to ensure compatibility of projects with management area goals and guidelines for soil, water, and air resources. It is the policy of the Garnet Resource Area to maintain, enhance, or restore site productivity, water quality, and stream stability on all public lands. This goal is incorporated in all the management areas in which any type of use or development may occur.

2. Air Quality

The BLM is a party to the Montana Smoke Management Cooperative Agreement. Under this agreement, the BLM will continue to work with state and local airshed groups to minimize air quality impacts from prescribed burns and similar activities. This will be done primarily through coordination with other agencies and by burning only when there is adequate smoke ventilation within the affected airshed. The watering of roads may be required during periods of construction or heavy traffic to alleviate localized dust problems.

3. Watershed Management

Surface disturbing activities will continue to be designed so as to maintain soil productivity, minimize erosion, and maintain or improve water quality and stream channel stability. Typical watershed concerns in the resource area will continue to be addressed through application of the following guidelines.

The timber productivity capability classification (TPCC) system, which is based on soil survey data, habitat types, elevation, aspect, and topography, will be used to classify forest lands (see Appendix B). The TPCC system considers soil compaction and erosion potential, soil climate, and soil chemical and physical properties as related to silvicultural practices.

Stream channel protection will be effected through the use of such measures as the FS Region One *Vegetation Manipulation Guidelines*, (USDI, FS 1965b) which are designed to limit increases in stream runoff to levels compatible with the capability of the channel to handle potential changes in flow and/or increases in sediment.

Best Management Practices, as developed through the *Montana Statewide 208 Study* (Montana 1979) will be used to control nonpoint sources of water pollution resulting from forest management practices and similar activities. General BMPs applicable to the Garnet Resource Area are identified in Appendix A. In addition, more specific soil unit BMPs will be utilized on a case by case basis. These BMPs, which have not yet been formalized, reflect more localized soil physical, chemical, and climate conditions. Recommendations drawn from these BMPs may include silvicultural systems to be applied, treatment of slash residual, slash disposal methods, and skidding methods, all oriented toward maintaining soil productivity on specific soil units.

Projects covered by BMPs will be monitored to assess the degree to which BMPs are being applied and the effectiveness of their application. BMPs will be monitored through stream discharge and sediment measurements. An interdisciplinary, on the ground evaluation team (soils, hydrology, forestry, and wildlife) will be used to increase the effectiveness of BMP monitoring. In accordance with an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the State of Montana, an annual report will be made to the Montana Water Quality Bureau concerning BMPs application and effectiveness. The BLM also participates in the Cumulative Impacts Program along with the Forest Service, State of Montana, and private industry to coordinate logging activities and minimize impacts.

For timber sale planning, soils information, generally in the form of a soils map accompanied by a physical and chemical properties table, will be used to define soil capabilities and to

recommend soil BMPs and mitigating measures. Hydrology information, where available, will be used to describe existing water quality and quantity; such information will also be used as a reference point for future monitoring of hydrologic conditions.

Corrective measures will be applied where unsatisfactory watershed conditions are identified. Such measures may be implemented through project-level plans (watershed, habitat, allotment, or compartment management plans); such measures may also be implemented through stipulations attached to permits, leases, and other authorizations.

Management activities in riparian zones generally will be designed to maintain or, where possible, improve riparian habitat condition. Roads and utility corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable. Prescribed fire will not be used within 75 feet of stream channels. Where logging is to occur, wheel and crawler vehicles will not operate within 45 feet of stream channels. In MA2, they will not operate within 75 feet of stream channels.

E. Monitoring Requirements

Watershed program monitoring will involve BMP evaluation, channel cross section, stream channel stability, water quality, soil erosion, soil moisture, and soil compaction, as is appropriate for the specific situation. Table 2-1 lists the items to be monitored.

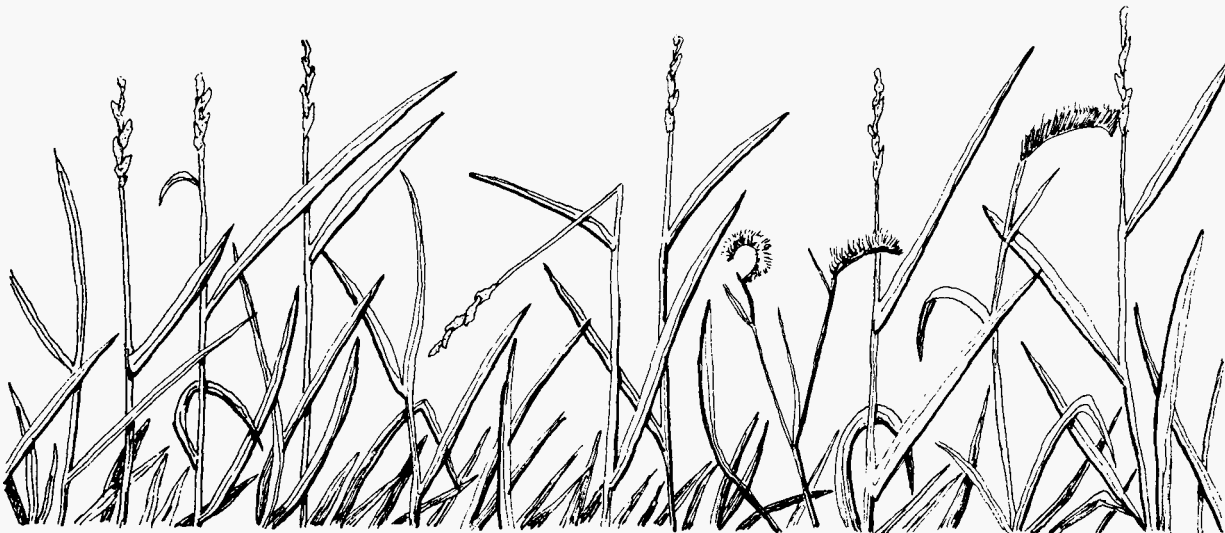


TABLE 2-1
WATERSHED RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decisions Change |
|---------|------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|---------|------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|

TABLE 2-1
WATERSHED RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decisions Change |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Water | water quality | area wide where management activities are occurring or to expand base-line data | standard USGS methods (or modified to meet specific conditions), field and laboratory analysis ² done for selected stream basins that have discharge measurements during the period April thru September or runoff period; automated suspended sediment sampling and continuous temperature measurements will occur in selected streams during the period April thru September | standard quantitative measurements for discharge, turbidity, conductivity, pH, suspended sediment, temperature, major ions, heavy metals, toxic materials | field measurements 10-15 times per year; major ions once a year; heavy metals and toxic substances as needed; base line data collected for five years prior to disturbance activities in basins without prior data; monitoring will continue throughout the activity period and for up to 4 years following completion of activities | water quality parameters which exceed state of Montana water quality standards; water quality measurements, especially suspended sediments, which render the water unsuitable for its classified usage |
| Soil & Site Productivity | compaction | Tertiary Age volcanic soils which will be and have been disturbed | use of Proving Ring Pentrometer | pounds per square inch | twice per year over a 5 year period | when compacted areas exceed 10% of ground surface and do not recover through natural process within 5 years |
| | soil moisture | selected fine-grained volcanic soils, coarse-grained plutonic soils, limestone soils, Belt Supergroup soils | manual sampling and gravimetric analysis | % by weight | once monthly June thru September | when regeneration is impaired due to inadequate soil moisture induced by silvicultural treatments |

¹ Monitoring activities between differing elements and within the same element will be conducted and/or coordinated so as to reduce duplications, travel time, etc. and thereby increase efficiency while reducing costs. The existing Studies Index System will also be used as a tool for tracking and scheduling monitoring plans.

² USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1908. "BLM-State of Montana Memorandum of Understanding."

ENERGY AND MINERALS PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

1. Maintain the scientific and educational values of the Limestone Cliffs area.
2. Maintain availability of public lands and federal mineral estate for energy and mineral exploration and development while preventing unnecessary or undue degradation.

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. Mining activity will be allowed on 203,310 acres.
2. Approximately 2,000 acres may be withdrawn from mineral entry.
 - a. Wilderness — 520 acres
 - b. ACEC — 20 acres
 - c. Historical and Cultural Sites — up to 160 acres (portion of MA 11)
 - d. Existing powersite and powerline withdrawals to be reviewed — 1,300 acres.
3. Oil and gas leasing will be allowed on 205,066 acres of federal mineral estate. Approximately 84,076 acres will be leased with special seasonal stipulations which apply mainly to road closure areas and important big game habitat (portions of MAs 4, 5, and 6). Approximately 8,180 acres will not be available for surface occupancy; such areas consist largely of special management areas (MA 9) and portions of cultural and historic sites (MA 11). Approximately 112,810 acres will be leased with standard stipulations.
4. Oil and gas leasing will not be allowed on 520 acres in the Quigg West wilderness area (MA 8).
5. The Limestone Cliffs area (20 acres) in T. 11 N., R. 13 W., Section 9, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, P.M. M., will be managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

C. Management Actions

1. Evaluate new lease applications, notice of intents, operating plans, applications for permit to drill, etc. to assure consistency with RMP.

2. Add seasonal stipulations to oil and gas leases in road closure areas and important big game habitat (MAs 4, 5, and 6).
3. Add stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy on oil and gas leases in special management areas (MA 9) and portions of cultural/historic sites (MA 11).
4. Develop a management plan for Limestone Cliffs ACEC.
5. Check and, if necessary, revise special stipulations map for oil and gas leases at the Montana State Office.
6. Seek a Secretarial withdrawal from mineral entry for Limestone Cliffs ACEC.
7. Keep management area overlay current concerning MA 14.

D. Standard Operating Procedures

Public lands generally will remain available for the exploration, development, and production of energy and mineral resources; such activities will be regulated to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of surface resource values to the extent practicable. Such activities will also be guided by management area goals and guidelines (see Chapter 3).

Areas of federal subsurface ownership underlying private land also will generally remain available for energy and mineral exploration and development. Surface owners must be consulted by claimants/lessees. Proposed activities will be reviewed and authorized on a case by case basis.

1. Locatable Minerals

All public land is open to mineral entry and development except where withdrawn to protect other resource values and uses. Mining activities on public land will be regulated under 43 CFR 3809 to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of surface resources and to ensure reasonable reclamation of disturbed sites. Standard procedures used in processing notices and plans of operations under the 3809 Regulations are summarized in Appendix C.

Validity examinations may be provided under the following conditions:

where a mineral patent application has been filed and a field examination is required to verify the validity of the claim(s);

where there is a conflict with a disposal application, and it is deemed in the public interest to do so, or where the statute authorizing the disposal requires clearance of any encumbrance;

where the land is needed for a federal program; or

where a mining claim is located under the guise of the mining law and flagrant unauthorized use of the land or mineral resource is occurring.

Public land will be opened to mineral entry where mineral withdrawals are revoked.

2. Oil and Gas Leasing

All public land is available for oil and gas leasing, with the exception of land recommended for wilderness designation.

Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations will continue to be based on application of the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing checklist and the leasing guidelines contained in the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment issued September 1981. Standard and special stipulations and the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing checklist are included in Appendix D.

All oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations attached. Special stipulations will be attached where needed to protect seasonal

wildlife habitat and/or other sensitive resource values. In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations are not sufficient to protect important surface values, stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy will be attached.

Oil and gas leasing guidance identified in this plan will apply only to leases processed after RMP approval. Existing leases will run their full term with only those stipulations attached at the time of lease issuance. Leases included in an operating unit or any future unit where production is established will remain unaffected by new stipulations as long as production continues or until leases are terminated.

3. Phosphate, Geothermal, and Other Leasables

Lease applications will continue to be processed as received. Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations will be based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

4. Common Variety Mineral Materials

Applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, will continue to be processed on a case by case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values will be attached based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

E. Monitoring Requirements

Table 2-2 lists the items to be monitored.

TABLE 2-2
MINERALS RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|----------|------|----------|---|--------------------------|--|---|
| Minerals | use | MA 14 | site inspection to determine adherence to 3809 regulations and monitor effects on other resources | resource characteristics | minimum of biweekly during periods of operation and increased frequency during road building, etc. | violation of 3809 regulations, change from plan of operations or notice; unnecessary or undue degradation |

¹ Monitoring activities between differing elements and within the same element will be conducted and/or coordinated so as to reduce duplications, travel time, etc. and thereby increase efficiency while reducing costs. The existing Studies Index System will also be used as a tool for tracking and scheduling monitoring plans.

LANDS PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

1. Maintain lands containing important resource values in public ownership.
2. Maintain availability of public lands for utility and transportation corridors.

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. 126,872 acres are included in retention zones (see Land Adjustment map in the map packet of the draft RMP/EIS).
2. 18,788 acres will be open to consideration for retention, exchange, transfer, or sale.
3. 127,500 acres will be available for further consideration and possible routing of major utility and transportation rights-of-way (MAs 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14).
4. 17,620 acres associated with riparian areas, important recreation, historic and cultural sites, and other special management areas are identified as avoidance areas where rights-of-way will be discouraged (MAs 1, 4, 9, 10, and 11).
5. All land recommended for wilderness (Quigg West, 520 acres) and for ACEC designation (Limestone Cliffs, 20 acres) will be excluded from corridor development.
6. The approximate 1,300 acres of powersite and power project withdrawals will remain in effect unless modified or revoked as a result of the withdrawal review process.
7. The land classifications on approximately 500 acres of river tracts and cultural sites will be lifted and the lands opened to the actions of the general land and mining laws. A formal withdrawal will be requested for protection of up to 160 acres involving such sites as Garnet Ghost Town, Coloma, Reynolds City, Blackfoot City, and other sites that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. These sites are recorded in the Butte District Office cultural resource files. (Some are mapped as MA 11.)

C. Management Actions

1. Evaluate all lands actions to assure consistency with RMP.

2. Inventory public land outside retention zones to determine suitability for retention, exchange, transfer, or sale.
3. Maintain Garnet Resource Area records to reflect the results of the withdrawal review process on the lands in Table 2-3 in Standard Operating Procedures.

TABLE 2-3
EXISTING WITHDRAWALS AND CLASSIFICATIONS¹

| Location | Acreage | Authority/ Purpose |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| T. 11 N., R. 8 W., Sec. 25 | 63 | C&MU ² |
| T. 14 N., R. 11 W., Sec. 18 | 159 | C&MU |
| Sec. 23 | 40 | C&MU |
| Sec. 26 | 120 | C&MU |
| T. 11 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 14 | 58 | C&MU |
| T. 13 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 33 | 5 | C&MU |
| T. 12 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 3 | 14 | R&PP ³ |
| T. 13 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 33 | 5 | R&PP |
| | 27 | R&PP |
| T. 12 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 6 | 8 | R&PP |
| T. 11 N., R. 16 W., Sec. 8 | 120 | PSR ⁴ |
| T. 11 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 2 | 179 | PSR |
| Sec. 12 | 161 | PSR |
| T. 12 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 18 | 49 | PSR |
| T. 12 N., R. 18 W., Sec. 1 | 23 | PSR |
| T. 10 N., R. 12 W., Sec. 10 | 40 | PSR |
| T. 11 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 7 | 164 | PSR |
| Sec. 18 | 80 | PSR |
| Sec. 21 | 200 | PSR |
| Sec. 22 | 120 | PSR |
| T. 11 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 14 | 131 | PSR |
| T. 11 N., R. 15 W., Sec. 22 | 40 | PSR |

¹ Does not include an estimated 40 acres within linear withdrawals for roads and powerlines

² Classification and Multiple Use Act

³ Recreation and Public Purposes Act

⁴ Power Site Reservation

4. Resolve unauthorized use of the public lands through termination, authorization by lease or permit, or sale.
5. Seek revocation of Classification and Multiple Use (C&MU) Act and Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) withdrawals, contingent upon Secretarial withdrawal from mineral entry for MA 11.

D. Standard Operating Procedures

1. Land Ownership Adjustments

The supplement to the State Director Guidance on *Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment* (USDI, BLM 1984a) provides criteria for use in categorizing public land for retention or adjustment, and for identifying acquisition priorities. Site-specific decisions regarding land ownership adjustment in the resource area will be made based largely on the following criteria derived from the supplement to State Director Guidance.

Areas of National Significance. Areas that have national environmental significance include wilderness, wilderness study areas, former wilderness study areas being studied for protective management, ACECs, and wetlands and riparian areas under Executive Order 11990. Areas that have national cultural and recreational significance include lands nominated or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or designated as National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Areas Containing Important Features. Areas that have important wildlife features include threatened and endangered species habitat, prime fisheries habitat, big game seasonal habitat, waterfowl and upland game bird habitat, and habitat for sensitive species including raptors and other nongame species.

Areas that have important recreational and cultural features include hunting and fishing sites, snowmobile trails, and areas that contribute significantly to the interpretive potential of cultural resources already in public ownership. Areas that have important watershed features include strategic tracts along rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and springs.

Areas Important to BLM Programs. These areas include tracts of public land that are consolidated enough to make management of their resources cost effective, and have physical and legal access. Access generally should allow for public use but, at the least, should allow administrative access to manage the resources. Access to private lands will not be restricted without coordinating first with the private landowner. Areas usually contain a combination of multiple use values and have characteristics that facilitate BLM priorities on the national, state, and local level. Areas may have improvements that represent public investments; be encumbered by R&PP leases, withdrawals, mining claims, etc.; or be managed by cooperative agreements with other agencies.

Areas Important to the Economy. These areas include tracts having mineral potential and lands that contribute significantly to the stability of the local economy by virtue of federal ownership.

The land ownership adjustment criteria identified above will be considered in land reports and environmental analyses prepared for specific adjustment proposals.

Public land within retention areas (see the Land Pattern Adjustment Map in the map packet of the draft RMP/EIS) generally will remain in public ownership and be managed by the BLM. Such areas meet one or more of the preceding criteria for retention and are not considered difficult or uneconomic to manage. Transfers to other public agencies will be considered where improved management efficiency would result. Minor adjustments involving exchanges may be permitted based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria. Adjustments involving sales would be permitted only by amending this RMP.

Public land outside of retention areas generally consists of isolated tracts which are considered difficult and uneconomic to manage. Such tracts may be considered for either retention, exchange, sale, or transfer to another agency, based on further site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria. Exchanges will generally be preferred to sale.

Public land identified for exchange or sale as a result of future site-specific analysis must meet the disposal criteria in the *Supplement to the State Director Guidance on Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment* (USDI, BLM 1984a) and in Sections 206 and 203 of FLPMA. No tracts will be exchanged or sold without proper environmental documentation and the required notification in the Federal Register and local newspapers.

Land to be acquired by BLM through exchange ordinarily must be located in retention areas. In addition, acquisition of such land should facilitate access to public land and resources, maintain or enhance important public values and uses, maintain or enhance local social and economic values, or facilitate implementation of other aspects of the Garnet RMP.

Consolidation of surface and subsurface ownership should be accomplished whenever possible to improve resource management opportunities and development potential.



2. Unauthorized Use

Unauthorized uses of public land will be resolved either through termination, authorization by lease or permit, or sale. Decisions will be based on the type and significance of improvements involved; conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and whether the unauthorized use is intentional or unintentional.

3. Withdrawals

Current BLM policy is to minimize the acreage of public land withdrawn from mining and mineral leasing and, where applicable, to replace existing withdrawals with rights-of-way, leases, permits, or cooperative agreements.

At the present time, 1,800 acres are effectively withdrawn from mining, mineral leasing, and/or sale, location, and entry under the public land laws (see Table 2-3).

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals will remain in effect unless modified or revoked as a result of the withdrawal review process. All withdrawals under the Classification and Multiple Use Act and the Recreation and Public Purposes Act will be recommended

for revocation. However, for important historic and cultural sites (MA 11), such recommendations will be contingent upon withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA.

As provided in Section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act and subject to valid existing rights, the minerals in lands designated as wilderness would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

4. Utility and Transportation Corridors

Public land within identified exclusion areas will not be available for utility and transportation corridor development. Public land within avoidance areas ordinarily will not be available for utility and transportation corridor development. Exceptions may be permitted based on type of and need for facility proposed; conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and availability of alternatives and/or mitigating measures.

All other public land usually is available for development of utility and transportation corridors. Exceptions will be based on consideration of the criteria identified above.

RECREATION PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

1. Maintain the scientific and sociocultural values of sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Maintain the wilderness characteristics of the Wales Creek, Hoodoo Mountain, and Quigg West Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) until directed by Congress to do otherwise.
3. Provide a broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand.
4. Maintain the recreation potential of undeveloped recreation sites.
5. Maintain or improve the visual quality within areas of high visual sensitivity and high scenic quality (MA12).

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. Approximately 7,850 acres will be managed to maintain or improve visual quality (see MA 12 outlined on Selected Alternative Map in map packet).
2. Approximately 160 acres; including Garnet, Coloma, Reynolds City, Copper Cliff, Blackfoot City, Beartown, Bearmouth, and other sites which qualify for the National Register of Historic Places; will be managed as historical and cultural sites (MA 11).
3. Pending Congressional approval, the 520-acre Quigg West (MA 8) will be allocated to wilderness.
4. Approximately 8,660 acres (MA 8 and 9) are allocated to roadless, nonmotorized recreation, including such areas as Wales Creek, Cottonwood Meadows, Upper Gallagher Creek, Chamberlain Meadows, Limestone Cliffs, and Quigg West.
5. Approximately 131,919 acres are available for roaded and/or motorized recreation.
6. Approximately 5,040 acres in the Ram and Karshaw Mountain areas are roaded but unavailable for motorized recreation.

7. Forty-one sites have been identified as undeveloped recreation sites (MA 10). A list of names and locations is located with the planning documents.
8. 54,770 acres of public land, as shown on the Motorized Recreation Restriction Map in the back packet of the draft RMP/EIS, will be kept in cooperative road closure programs. See Table 2-4.

C. Management Actions

1. Prepare a wilderness study report/preliminary final environmental impact statement on wilderness recommendations for Quigg West, Wales Creek, and Hoodoo Mountain WSAs.
2. Continue to apply the Interim Management Policy to Quigg West, Wales Creek, and Hoodoo Mountain WSAs.
3. Develop and implement a travel plan identifying those public lands to be restricted or closed to motorized vehicle use.
4. Maintain the existing network of snowmobile trails in the Garnet Range, including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail as described in the Garnet Winter Recreation Trails Brochure and the Garnet Range Winter Trails Management Plan.
5. Continue cooperating with Garnet Preservation Association in implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan.
6. Inventory and evaluate cultural resources as a part of project clearance.
7. Maintain existing road and area closures as shown on the Motorized Recreation Restriction Map (as corrected) in draft RMP/EIS.
8. Maintain 41 undeveloped recreation sites to acceptable health and safety standards (MA 10).
9. Develop and/or update activity plans/environmental assessments for the special recreation management areas (SRMAs).
 - a. Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail
 - b. Lewis and Clark Trail and Blackfoot River
 - c. Garnet Ghost Town
 - d. Blackfoot Special Management Area
 - e. Clark Fork River
 - f. designated wilderness areas

TABLE 2-4
WALK-IN HUNTING AREAS IN THE GARNET RESOURCE AREA

| Name | Approximate Size | Visitor Use | Road Closure Dates | Year Started | Type | Admin. | Reason for Closure* |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|---------------|---------------------|
| Morrison Peak Special Management Area (SMA) | 24,000 ac. (40 ac. BLM) | High | Sept. 1 - Nov. 30 | 1976 | Formal Cooperative (23 Cooperators) | MDFWP | 1, 2, 3 |
| Marcum Mtn. Special Management Area | 8,000 ac. (4,560 ac. BLM) | High | Sept. 1 - Nov. 30 on private & BLM; Sept. 1 - April 30 on BLM along Blackfoot Canyon face | 1974 (Formal since 1977) | Formal Cooperative (22 Cooperators) | MDFWP and BLM | 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Deer Cr. | 2,600 ac. (400 ac. BLM) | Moderate | Sept. 1 - Nov. 30 | 1976 | Admin. closure of BLM road | BLM | 2, 3 |
| Wales, Yourname Creeks | 15,400 ac. (14,120 ac. BLM) | Low | Yearlong | 1974 | Formal Cooperative on boundary road (BLM & BN) | MDFWP and BLM | 2, 3 |
| McElwain Douglas Creeks | 8,500 ac. (7,840 ac. BLM) | Moderate | Murray Cr. Rd., Deer Gu. Spur & Trail Spring Spur closed Sept. 1 - Nov. 30. McElwain Fire Rd., Boiler connecting road & Snowcap Trail closed yearlong except open to over snow vehicles Jan. 1 - April 30. | 1978 for Murray Cr. Rd. 1976 for Deer Gu. & Trail Spring 1974 for remaining roads. | BLM Admin. closure | BLM | 2, 3, 5 |
| Blackfoot SMA | 42,000 ac. (9,500 ac. BLM) | High | Sept. 1 - Nov. 30 Elk logging study area portion, yearlong | 1974 (Formal since 1976) | Formal Cooperative (10 Cooperators) | MDFWP and BLM | 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 |
| Ram Mtn. | 11,100 ac. (4,800 ac. BLM) | Moderate | Closed year-long | 1974 | Informal Cooperative (3 Cooperators) | BLM | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 |

TABLE 2-4
WALK-IN HUNTING AREAS IN THE GARNET RESOURCE AREA

| Name | Approximate Size | Visitor Use | Road Closure Dates | Year Started | Type | Admin. | Reason for Closure* |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| W.F. Braziel, Gobbler's Knob, Dry Cottonwood Creek | 15,000 ac. (12,000 ac. BLM) | Moderate | Sept. 1 - Nov. 30 | 1978 | Informal Cooperative (3 Cooperators) | BLM | 1, 2, 3 |
| Summit Cabin | 900 ac. (870 ac. BLM) | Moderate | Sept. 1 - Nov. 30 | 1980 | BLM admin. closure | BLM | 2, 3, 7 |
| Karshaw Mtn. | 240 ac. (240 ac. BLM) | Low | Yearlong | 1978 | BLM admin. closure | BLM | 2, 3, 7 |
| Keno Cr. Spur | 400 ac. (400 ac. BLM) | Moderate | Yearlong | 1982 | BLM admin. closure | BLM | 2, 3, 7 |
| TOTAL | | 128,140 acres | | | | | |
| TOTAL BLM | | 54,770 acres | | | | | |

***Reasons for Closure**

1. To gain hunting privileges on private land.
2. To improve the quality of hunting.
3. To prevent vehicular damage to soils & vegetation.
4. To reduce harassment of wintering big game.
5. To reduce harassment of elk on spring/summer/fall range.
6. To reduce pressure on big horn sheep herd.
7. To provide security for big game after logging.

10. Begin negotiating with potential cooperators in Ten Mile, Pearson, Warm Springs, and Klondike Creek areas with the goal of establishing cooperative road closure areas.
11. Develop and implement an interpretation plan for Blackfoot City and key sites near Garnet.
 - a. Reynolds City
 - b. Beartown
 - c. Springtown
 - d. Summit Cabin
 - e. Coloma
 - f. Blackfoot City
12. Seek a Secretarial withdrawal from mineral entry for MA 8 and MA 11.

D. Standard Operating Procedures

A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use. Recreation areas receiving the heaviest use will receive first priority for operation and maintenance funds. Sites that cannot be maintained to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected.

Investment of public funds for new recreation developments will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. However, no such developments are envisioned during the life of this plan. Therefore management will be limited to protecting the recreation potential of undeveloped sites.

These plans will provide more specific management guidance for recreation and other resources in each SRMA, consistent with the RMP. SRMAs are identified on the basis of high recreation use, the significance of recreation resources regionally and nationally, and the need to resolve conflicts in resource management or use.

Recreation resources will continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis as a part of project and activity planning. Such evaluations will consider the significance of the proposed action and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of the developments with recreation management objectives.

Recreation special use permits will be evaluated and approved on a case by case basis. This includes permits for commercial use, competitive events, and group activities such as trail rides, bicycle tours, and off-road vehicle (ORV) events. No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service permits.

1. Travel Planning and Motorized Vehicle Use

All public land will be designated as either open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use under authority of Executive Order 11644.

All existing road and area closures generally will remain in effect (see Table 2-4) except for minor adjustments in the Chamberlain Creek drainage. New roads constructed in the future generally will be closed to motorized public use following completion of planned management activities. Cooperative closures involving adjoining landowners will be pursued in the Tenmile, Klondike, Warm Springs Creek, and Pearson Creek areas.

Public land within areas identified as limited to motorized vehicle use generally will receive priority attention during travel planning. Specific roads, trails, or portions of such areas may be restricted seasonally or yearlong to all or specified types of motorized vehicle use.

Public land within areas identified as closed to motorized vehicle use will be closed yearlong to all forms of motorized vehicle use. Exceptions may be allowed in wilderness study areas based on application of the Interim Management Policy.

Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails, or areas based on consideration of the following criteria:

the need to promote user enjoyment and minimize use conflicts;

the need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, road beds, or other resource values;

the need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation of wildlife habitat;

the need to promote user safety; and

the need to cooperate with adjoining landowners.

2. Visual Resources

Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project plans using the visual resource management (VRM) guidelines described in Appendix E. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to mitigate impacts on visual resources.

Areas recommended for or designated as wilderness (MA 8) will be subject to Class I VRM guidelines. Certain lands generally within riparian zones, recreation or cultural sites, special management areas, and visual corridors (MA 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, and 12) will be subject to Class II or III VRM guidelines. All other public land will be subject to Class III, IV, or V VRM guidelines, as previously mapped and referenced in the Garnet Management Situation Analysis (MSA). The precise location of VRM Classes II through V may be delineated in more detail during project or activity planning, based on the standard criteria for evaluating scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and distance zones.

3. Cultural Resources

Cultural resource management will continue to focus on Garnet Ghost Town. This will include conducting historical research, recording architectural features, and stabilizing deteriorating structures. Cooperative management with the Garnet Preservation Association will continue with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan.

Emphasis will also be placed on the interpretation of key sites near Garnet, including Reynolds City, Beartown, Springtown, Summit Cabin, and Coloma; and at Blackfoot City.

On the remainder of the resource area, cultural resources will continue to be inventoried and evaluated as part of project level planning in compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of cultural resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to mitigate impacts on cultural resources.

Standard Operating Procedures for cultural resource management are summarized below and are described in more detail in Appendix F:

Cultural resource inventories will be completed prior to any ground disturbing activity. Cultural resources will not be disturbed until evaluated by the District Manager or an authorized representative in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer to determine eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

Consultation will also include appropriate representative(s) of Native American groups or organizations for cultural resources valuable for ceremonial, religious, or other sociocultural purposes.

Cultural resource sites generally will be protected from disturbance through project design and location. If sites are found to be eligible for the National Register(s) and cannot be avoided, a determination of the effect of the project on the site(s), including appropriate mitigating measures, will be made in consultation with the Montana Historic Preservation Officer and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. No action affecting such sites will be permitted until the Advisory Council has had an opportunity to comment.

Adverse effects generally will be mitigated either through redesign of the proposed project so as to avoid the site or through complete excavation or other information recovery techniques. A memorandum of understanding will be developed with the Advisory Council to establish an acceptable level of mitigation for impacts on cultural resources when such impacts cannot be avoided.

To provide for consideration of cultural resources not evident during inventories, a stipulation will be attached to each surface-disturbing project requiring the operator to temporarily suspend work if buried cultural remains are encountered. The District Manager or an authorized representative will then determine the action necessary for protection or salvage of the discovery.

4. Wilderness Resources

The Interim Management Policy will continue to be applied to all wilderness study areas identified under Section 603 of FLPMA, and to any areas studied under Section 202 of FLPMA and recommended as suitable for wilderness designation, until such areas are reviewed and acted upon by Congress. Other 202 WSAs will be managed in accordance with applicable guidance provided by this RMP.

Public land within areas added by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in compliance with the *Wilderness Management Policy* (USDI, BLM 1981b). Site-specific wilderness management plans will be developed for such areas.

Areas reviewed by Congress but not added to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in accordance with other applicable guidance provided by this resource management plan.

An intensive inventory completed by the BLM in 1981, identified four wilderness study areas. These are Wales Creek (MT-074-150), Hoodoo Mountain (MT-074-151A), Gallagher Creek (MT-074-151B), and Quigg West (MT-074-155).

Quigg West is located in Granite County; Wales Creek, Hoodoo Mountain, and Gallagher Creek are in Powell County. They cover 27,737 acres or about 19 percent of the public land in the GRA. Table 2-5 lists the WSAs and their acreage.

E. Monitoring Requirements

Table 2-6 lists the items to be monitored.

TABLE 2-5
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS IN THE GARNET RESOURCE AREA

| WSA Name | WSA Number | Acreage | Study Authority | Wilderness Designation Recommendations |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|--|
| Wales Creek | MT-074-150 | 11,580 | FLPMA, Sec. 603 | not recommended |
| Hoodoo Mountain | MT-074-151A | 11,380 | FLPMA, Sec. 603 | not recommended |
| Gallagher Creek | MT-074-151B | 4,257 | FLPMA, Sec. 202 | dropped from consideration |
| Quigg West | MT-074-155 | 520 | FLPMA, Sec. 202 | recommended* |
| Total | | 27,737 | | |

*Contingent on FS wilderness recommendations for Quigg (1807)

TABLE 2-6
Recreation Resource Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Cultural Resources | site vandalism | area wide for sites eligible for nomination to the Register of Historic Places | site inspection | number of sites disturbed | once yearly during snowfree season | any noticeable trend indicating increased site disturbance such as ground disturbance, modification of structures, etc. |
| | environmental degradation, movement of artifacts as a result of erosion and trampling | area wide for sites eligible for nomination to the Register of Historic Places | site inspection and photo plot-measurement method using closeup photos and measurements to show quantitative changes in the distribution of artifacts | number of artifacts displaced or altered per square yard | once a year | any disturbance involving sites eligible for nomination to the Register of Historic Places |

TABLE 2-6
Recreation Resource Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|-------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Wilderness | wilderness study areas | MA 8 | monitoring by flight or vehicle based review | site disturbance | once per month during use season or more often if evidence occurs to warrant disturbance | evidence of unauthorized activity which degrades wilderness values will instigate an investigation and possible civil or criminal court action |
| | general recreation use | area wide with emphasis on dispersed use of undeveloped recreational sites | area inspection to look for vandalism, resource abuse, etc. | visitor days | twice per year e.g. once in June and once in Oct. | collected data reveals user conflicts, resource degradation, or safety hazards |
| | concentrated recreation use and demand | Garnet, heavily used trail heads, and winter trails | visitor registration at Garnet, traffic counters, and estimates | visitor days | counters to be checked bi-weekly during periods of heavy use, daily counts or estimates of use at Garnet by BLM or Garnet Preservation Association | collected data indicates increased visitor use/yr. or sustained use that requires additional or improved facilities |
| | road closure | area wide with emphasis on designated walk-in hunting areas | aerial reconnaissance and ground patrol | visitor days and violations | one fall and one winter flight per year, ground patrol of gates twice during periods of heavy use or more often if evidence occurs to warrant observation | on any given road closure gate, three violations are noted/season |

¹ Monitoring activities between differing elements and within the same element will be conducted and/or coordinated so as to reduce duplications, travel time, etc. and thereby increase efficiency while reducing costs. The existing Studies Index System will also be used as a tool for tracking and scheduling monitoring plans.

FORESTRY PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

1. Maintain or, where practical, enhance site productivity on all Commercial Forest Land (CFL) available for harvest.
 - a. Minimize insect and disease losses with harvesting and management practices.
 - b. Eliminate the current reforestation backlog and reestablish desired tree seedling densities within a reasonable timeframe following future harvests.
 - c. Precommercially thin stands to maximize growth on crop trees.
 - d. Participate in tree improvement cooperatives and using genetically improved seedlings in reforestation of CFL.
2. Offer approximately 7,300 mbf of timber for sale annually. This is the best current estimate of the harvest level sustainable in the Garnet Resource Area. It is subject to minor revision based on updated inventory information, changes in land status due to ownership adjustments, and/or funding allocations.
3. Efficiently harvest and use the timber resource without creating unacceptable environmental impacts on the forest ecosystem.
2. Update and implement the five-year timber sale program.
3. Develop and implement timber management plans/environmental assessments in conformance with RMP objectives.
4. Prepare and implement timber sale plans/environmental assessments.
5. Develop and implement a plan to eliminate reforestation backlog by 1993.
6. Identify stand conditions. Identify and prioritize opportunities to apply various intensive management practices.
7. Develop and maintain a computerized stand record system.

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. Approximately 105,020 acres (93 percent) of CFL will be available for forest management (MA 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, and 12).
2. Approximately 7,440 acres (7 percent) of CFL will be set aside for management for commercial products (MA 1, 8, 9, 11, and 14).
3. Management restrictions, which reduce volume harvested by an estimated 20 percent will be applied to approximately 64,720 acres (MA 2, 4, 5, 6, and 10).

C. Management Actions

1. Provide input into other resource activity plans, Habitat Management Plans (HMPs), AMPs, etc.



D. Standard Operating Procedures

Percentage reduction in timber output to accomplish management objectives of other resources are necessary and shown by management area in Table 2-7.

The resource area operates under a five-year timber sale and forest management program which is developed, implemented, and updated annually. The CFL is divided into compartments which are geographic units of roughly 3,000 acres. The suitable CFL as identified by the TPCC (see Appendix B) in each compartment is further divided into stands. Each stand is analyzed through the operations inventory for stocking, condition, age, and volume, and is given a priority for treatment. In addition to the stand analysis, a transportation system is developed for each compartment.

To develop a sale, a number of high priority stands are selected and a timber sale plan and environmental analysis is prepared and reviewed with an interdisciplinary team. These stands, after they are harvested or treated, are then monitored to determine how successful the treatment was in obtaining the silvicultural objectives of the prescription and meeting the goals and objectives of the specific management areas (Chapter 3) for these stands.

A typical monitoring sequence for a stand begins with a survival survey one-year after planting, and stocking surveys at three and five years to determine if the new stand meets BLM stocking standards. Additional surveys occur at age 20 to establish need for precommercial thinning; at years 40, 60, and 80 to determine suitability for commercial thinning; and at age 100 to prepare a prescription for harvest.

Yearly extensive detection surveys are made over all the forest land to monitor insect and disease trends. Funds are available for insect and disease control projects where control can occur through some silvicultural action.

Timber sale contracts are prepared for each sale. These contracts contain a wide range of standard clauses outlining the purchasers obligations for fire protection, watershed, soil protection, and road construction and maintenance. In addition to the standard clauses, each contract will contain specific instructions on the location and manner in which the timber is to be harvested; location of required roads and construction specification for each road; and requirements for slash disposal, site preparation, timber stand improvement, regeneration, and performance bonds.

The timber management program is monitored on a stand basis. As stands are inventoried through the operations inventory, a management program is prepared for the stand through rotation. Each step or activity in the management progression for the stand is monitored and evaluated to determine the timing for the next treatment. The stand development and the management objective must be reached before the next treatment phase is initiated.

E. Monitoring Requirement

The timber management program will be monitored on a stand basis to determine the need and timing of silvicultural treatments. The forest land management program will be monitored to ensure compliance with management area objectives. Table 2-8 lists the items to be monitored.

TABLE 2-7
ESTIMATED REDUCTION IN TIMBER OUTPUT DUE TO
MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

| Number | Management Area | % Reduction | # Acres |
|--------|---|-------------|---------|
| 1 | Riparian Protection Zone | 100 | 1,000 |
| 2 | Riparian Multiple Use Zone | 20 | 2,500 |
| 3 | General Forest Management | 0 | 36,900 |
| 4 | Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components | 20 | 8,300 |
| 5 | Big Game Summer and Fall Range | 20 | 48,850 |
| 6 | Big Game Winter Range | 20 | 23,300 |
| 7 | Noncommercial Forest and TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest | N/A | 5,800 |
| 8 | Areas Recommended For Wilderness Designation | 100 | 520 |
| 9 | Special Management Areas | 100 | 8,140 |
| 10 | Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites | 20 | 41 |
| 11 | Historical and Cultural Sites | 100 | 160 |
| 12 | Visual Corridor | 0 | 7,850 |
| 13 | Nonforest Habitat | N/A | 1,300 |
| 14 | Mineral Production Area | 100 | 1,000 |

TABLE 2-8
FOREST RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Commercial Forestland | stocking | all re-generated stands either natural or planted | stocking survey ² | number of trees per acre | five year intervals until stand is declared established or until 15 yrs. | fewer than 180 trees per acre well distributed throughout the stand 15 years after harvest |
| | post harvest evaluation | cutting units | site inspection | resource characteristics | within one month after termination or as soon as area is snowfree | sale plan EA and stand prescription recommendations not met |
| | prethinning evaluation | all re-generated stands | stocking survey ² | stand condition, trees/acre | approximately 20 yrs. after stand has been declared established | crown competition is evident |
| | insect & disease survey | timber stands | aerial and ground observation by USDA Forest Pest Mgmt. | acres affected | annual | change in incidence and level of damage |
| | cover | all re-generated stands in MAs 4, 5, 6 | site inspection | 200 trees per acre 8 feet tall | begin 15 years after stand is declared established, continue at 5 yr. intervals until stand meets MA objectives | stand meets MA objectives, adjacent stands then become eligible for harvesting |
| | use | all authorized use areas i.e. timber sales, post & pole permits, etc. | site inspection | amount of use | minimum of once a week during logging and increased frequency as necessary during road building, slash disposal and reforestation; minimum once a month for post & poles | violation of contract specification |

TABLE 2-8
FOREST RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|---------|---|------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| | progeny test plantation (data collection) | Top-O-Deep | as required by IETIC ³ | standard quantitative measurements of survival, height, growth | every 5 yrs on tree growth | when data is no longer required or different data is required |
| | progeny test plantation (site protection) | Top-O-Deep | site inspection | trees showing pest damage | twice a yr. | increase in pest activity |

¹ Monitoring activities between differing elements and within the same element will be conducted and/or coordinated so as to reduce duplications, travel time, etc. and thereby increase efficiency while reducing costs. The existing Studies Index System will also be used as a tool for tracking and scheduling monitoring plans.

² USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1981. BLM Manual. Section 5705. Denver, CO and Butte District Policy Memo. April 12, 1982. "Reforestation Backlog Certification Standards-Manual Supplement."

³ IETIC. Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative.

RANGE PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

1. Maintain or, where practical, enhance site productivity on all public land available for livestock grazing.
 - a. Maintain current vegetative condition in maintenance (M) and custodial (C) category allotments.
 - b. Improve unsatisfactory vegetative conditions by one condition class in certain improvement (I) category allotments (see Appendix L).
 - c. Prevent noxious weeds from invading new areas.
 - d. Limit utilization levels to provide for plant maintenance.
2. Provide a level of livestock grazing commensurate with resource objectives.

B. Land Use Allocations

1. The tracts listed in Table 2-9 will not be leased for livestock grazing.

TABLE 2-9

**TRACTS TO REMAIN UNLEASED
FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING**

| Name | Acreage |
|-------------------|---------|
| Chamberlain Creek | 5,760 |
| Wales Creek | 7,820 |
| Gallagher Creek | 3,420 |
| Cottonwood Creek | 3,040 |
| Yourname Creek | 7,160 |
| Quigg Peak | 520 |
| Elk Creek East | 4,480 |
| Pearson Creek | 1,570 |
| Total | 33,770 |

2. A total of 111,890 acres of public land in the GRA will remain available for livestock use (see Appendix K and allotment overlay in map packet).
3. A total of 81,294 acres will be covered by allotment management plans.

4. 6,245 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock forage will be offered for lease by the year 1996. This number is the best current estimate of the level of livestock use sustainable in the GRA under present resource conditions and resource conditions anticipated by the year 1996; however, they are subject to revision based on the results of implementing and monitoring this RMP and on consultation with affected operators.
5. 8,013 AUMs of livestock forage will be offered for lease by the year 2006. This number is the best current estimate of the level of livestock use sustainable in the GRA under present resource conditions and resource conditions anticipated by the year 2006; however, they are subject to revision based on the results of implementing and monitoring this RMP and on consultation with affected operators.

C. Management Actions

1. Contact those grazing lessees (begin consultation process) who may be affected by changes in grazing management and inform them of possible changes.
2. Prepare and distribute a Rangeland Program Summary.
3. Provide input into resource activity plans, HMPs, timber sale plans, etc.
4. Continue livestock use supervision to assure compliance with lease terms/conditions.
5. Issue decisions to discontinue grazing leases in Elk Creek.
6. Discontinue AMP on Devil Mountain allotment.
7. Prepare and issue grazing decisions (including overall increase from 5,930 to 6,245 AUMs short-term).
8. Review the existing AMPs listed in Table 2-10 to assure consistency with RMP objectives and guidelines; incorporate wildlife/riparian habitat management objectives and forest regeneration considerations as needed.
9. Develop and implement AMPs for the I category allotments (Appendix L) listed in Table 2-11.

TABLE 2-10
AMP ALLOTMENTS EXISTING

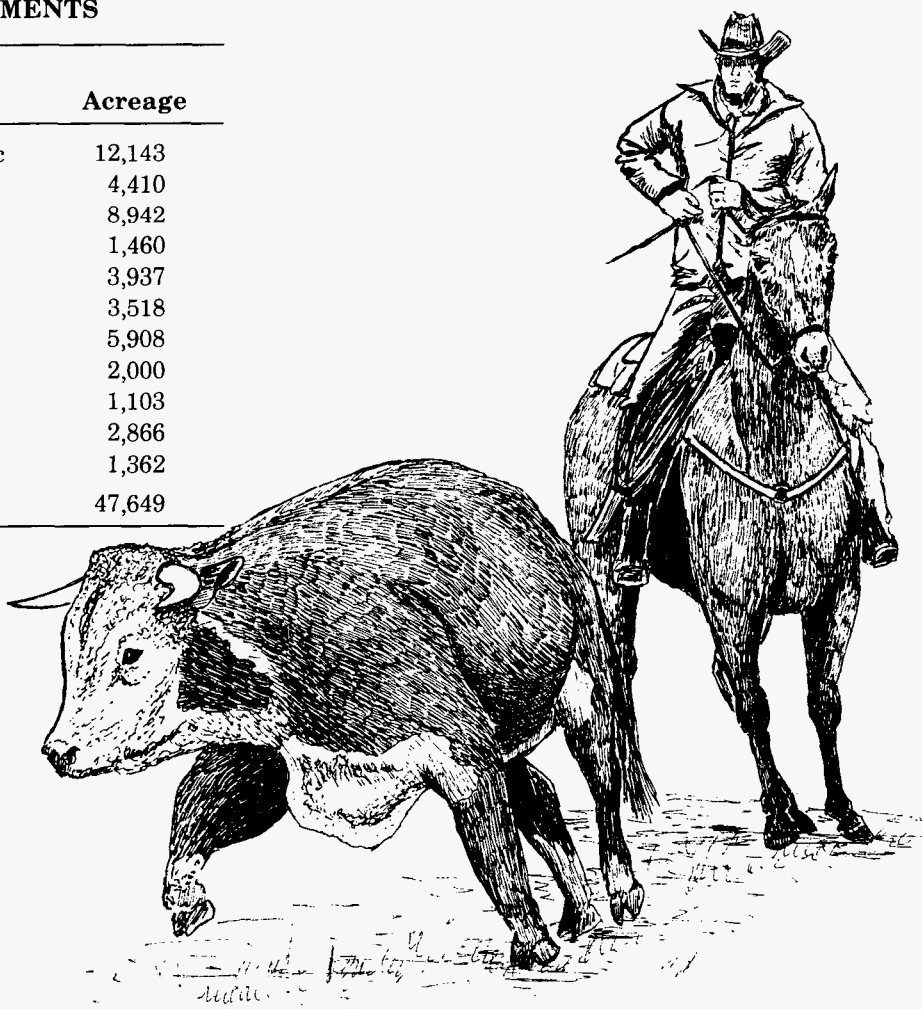
| Allotment Number and Name | Grazing System | Acres | | Year Initiated | Category |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|----------------|----------|
| | | BLM | Private | | |
| 7118 Five Mile | 3 Pasture R.R. | 480 | — | 1972 | M |
| 7119 McElwain Creek | 4 Pasture R.R. | 5,604 | 3,485 | 1970 | M |
| 7121 Wales | 3 Pasture R.R. | 854 | 640 | 1971 | M |
| 7207 Braziel Creek | 3 Pasture R.R. | 7,358 | 2,080 | 1971 | M |
| 7213 Marcum Mountain | 3 Pasture D.R. | 3,575 | 2,319 | 1975 | M |
| 7224 Warm Springs Creek | 4 Pasture R.R. | 7,451 | 13,567 | 1968 | M |
| 7316 Ram Mountain | 4 Pasture R.R. | 4,153 | 2,825 | 1969 | M |
| 7319 West Fork Buttes | 4 Pasture R.R. | 640 | 1,280 | 1969 | M |
| 7320 Stewart Lake | 4 Pasture R.R. | 2,335 | 2,640 | 1971 | M |

R.R. — rest rotation

D.R. — deferred rotation

TABLE 2-11
NEW AMP ALLOTMENTS

| Allotment Number and Name | Acreage |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 7101 Bonita-Clinton-Potomac | 12,143 |
| 7102 Weaver | 4,410 |
| 7104 Lund #1 | 8,942 |
| 7105 McMahon | 1,460 |
| 7106 Iverson | 3,937 |
| 7108 Lund #2 | 3,518 |
| 7109 Murray-Douglas Cr. | 5,908 |
| 7219 Mannix | 2,000 |
| 7221 Murphy | 1,103 |
| 7312 H. Luthje | 2,866 |
| 7324 Collins #2 | 1,362 |
| Total Acreage | 47,649 |



D. Standard Operating Procedures

1. Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments have been assigned to one of three management categories based on present resource conditions and the potential for improvement (see Appendix G). The M allotments generally will be managed to maintain current resource conditions; I allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and C allotments generally will receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration.

2. Implementing Changes in Allotment Management

Allotment management plans generally will describe in detail the types of changes needed in an allotment and establish a schedule for implementation. Such plans will be based upon approved management objectives and guidelines established through the RMP process. Proposed changes in allotment management will be subject to the environmental review process, and such proposals will be modified or rejected when needed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Existing AMPs will be reviewed to assure consistency with RMP objectives and guidelines; wildlife and riparian habitat management objectives and forest regeneration considerations will be incorporated into existing AMPs as needed. The following sections contain discussions of changes likely to be recommended in an allotment management plan and the guidance that applies to these administrative actions.

Livestock Use Adjustments. Livestock use adjustments are most often made by changing one or more of the following: the kind or class of livestock grazing an allotment, the season of use, the stocking rate, or the pattern of grazing. For each of the five alternatives presented in this RMP, target stocking rates have been set for each allotment (refer to Appendix H). While most livestock use adjustments will occur in the I allotments, use adjustments are permitted for allotments in categories C and M.

In reviewing the target stocking rate figures and other recommended changes, it is emphasized that the target AUM figures are not final stocking rates. Rather, all livestock use adjustments will be implemented through documented mutual agreement or by decision. When adjustments are made through mutual agreement, they may be implemented once the Rangeland Program Summary has been through a public review period. When livestock use adjustments are implemented by decision, the decision will be based on operator consultation, range survey data, and monitoring of resource conditions.

Current BLM policy emphasizes the use of a systematic monitoring program to verify the need for livestock adjustments proposed on the basis of one-time inventory data. Monitoring will also measure the changes brought about by new livestock management practices and evaluate the effectiveness of these management practices in meeting stated objectives.

The federal regulations that govern changes in allocation of livestock forage provide specific direction for livestock use adjustments implemented by decision (43 CFR 4110.3). These regulations provide guidance for the allocation of additional forage on a temporary and a permanent basis, as well as guidance for reducing the livestock grazing capacity due to a decrease in available forage. Permanent increases in the allocation of livestock forage or suspension of preference will generally be implemented over a five-year period but can be implemented in less than five years when agreement between the BLM and affected interests is reached to shorten the time span, or when a shorter period is necessary to protect public lands due to conditions created by such factors as fire, drought, or insect infestations, and a final decision is issued and placed in full force and effect under 4160.3(C) of this title.

Forage created through timber harvesting will be allocated on a temporary five-year basis and not be renewed until adequate monitoring studies confirm a proper stocking level for that logged site.

Range Improvements and Treatments. Range improvements and treatments will be implemented under all alternatives. Typical range improvements and treatments and the general procedures to be followed in implementing them are described in Appendix I. The extent, location, and timing of such actions will be based on the allotment specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, and on interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions and alternatives.

Weed control efforts on public lands will be designed to prevent the invasion of noxious weeds into areas presently free of weeds. Target weeds will include knapweed, leafy spurge, and musk thistle. Priority will be placed on control efforts along primary public access roads into public lands, control of spot infestations, and cooperation with adjoining landowners in the control of large weed infestations. Biological control will be initiated on selected sites as control organisms are developed and proven as a viable method of weed control.

Allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will go to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs. Other factors to be considered include resource needs, public participation, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability. Range improvements will occur in the I and M allotments. Appendix G describes the criteria used to determine I, M, or C allotment categories and the general reasons warranting the expenditure of funds.

Grazing Systems. Grazing systems will be used in all alternatives. The type of system selected for each AMP will be based on consideration of the following factors: allotment specific management objectives; resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability; operator needs; and implementation costs.

Typical grazing systems available for consideration are described in Appendix J.

Unleased Tracts. Unleased tracts will remain available for leasing, as provided for in the BLM grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110 and 4130), unless the RMP indicates no grazing will be allowed. Lands to be excluded from grazing may be made available for livestock use on a temporary, nonrenewable basis at the discretion of the Area Manager if such use would meet management goals and objectives for the area.

E. Monitoring Requirements

Monitoring efforts will focus on allotments in the I and M categories. For the range program, methodologies are available for monitoring vegetative trend, forage utilization, actual use (livestock numbers and periods of grazing), and climate. The data collected from these studies will be used to evaluate current stocking rates, to schedule pasture moves by livestock, to determine levels of forage competition, to detect changes in plant communities, and to identify patterns of forage use. Some of the methodologies that could be used include Daubenmire canopy transects, key forage plant utilization transects, aerial and ground reconnaissance of animal numbers and grazing patterns, actual use questionnaires, and low altitude aerial photography transects.

Priorities for monitoring grazing allotments will be established. The methodology and intensity of study that is chosen for a particular allotment will be determined by the nature and severity of the resource conflicts that are present in that allotment. Table 2-12 lists the items to be monitored.

TABLE 2-12
RANGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| Rangeland Vegetation | condition | all M&I allotments | as outlined in SCS National Range Handbook Section 305 ² | % pounds production compared to climax allowance | end of each grazing cycle | condition is reduced one class |
| | trend | a. all M&I allotments b. any allotment where adjustment in preference is proposed | canopy-coverage (Daubenmire), ³ soil surface factor (MSO-7100-1), ⁴ photos | change in % of surface area | a. end of each grazing cycle b. first and fifth year, then on 5 yr. interval | decrease of 10 percentage points from base data |
| | cover | M&I allotments | canopy-coverage (Daubenmire), ³ photos | % of surface area | end of each grazing cycle | decrease of 10 percentage points from base data |
| | utilization | M&I allotments | key forage plant ⁵ | % forage removed | annually at end of grazing cycle | utilization more than 50% on native grasses |
| | precipitation | M&I allotments | site specific rain gauges, RAWS units, ⁶ NOAA data ⁷ | inches of precipitation | monthly during growing season | consider with temperature data to determine utilization level |
| | temperature | M&I allotments | NOAA data, ⁷ RAWS data ⁶ | degrees F or C | monthly during growing season | consider with precipitation data to determine utilization level |

¹ Monitoring activities between differing elements and within the same element will be conducted and/or coordinated so as to reduce duplications, travel time, etc. and thereby increase efficiency while reducing costs. The existing Studies Index System will also be used as a tool for tracking and scheduling monitoring plans.

² USDA. Soil Conservation Service. 1976. National Range Handbook. Washington D.C.

³ Daubenmire. 1959. "A Canopy Coverage Method of Vegetational Analysis." Northwest Science. 33(1): 43-64.

⁴ USDI. Bureau of Land Management 1981. BLM Manual. Section 4430.5. Denver, CO.

⁵ USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1984. Rangeland Monitoring: Utilization Studies. Technical Reference 4400.3. Denver, CO.

⁶ RAWS. Remote Automatic Weather Station operated by BLM.

⁷ NOAA. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

1. Maintain all riparian habitat currently in satisfactory condition.
2. Improve riparian habitat condition from unsatisfactory to satisfactory in the I category allotments identified in the Range Program Guidance.
3. Stabilize or improve habitat conditions in other key areas.
 - a. Winter range (MA 16)
 - b. All suboptimum aquatic
4. Maintain and improve elk summer and fall habitat components in high density occurrence areas (MA 4).
5. Balance forage and cover requirements for big game on summer and fall ranges (MA 5).

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. Approximately 3,500 acres will be managed primarily to maintain or enhance a variety of riparian habitat values (MA 1 and 2).
2. Approximately 80,450 acres will be managed primarily to emphasize big game habitat, including elk summer and fall habitat components (MA 4), big game summer and fall range (MA 5), and big game winter range (MA 6). Also, about 5,800 acres of noncommercial forest land (MA 7) not included in MA 4, 5, and 6 will be managed with emphasis on maintaining old-growth, unique features, and mature forest habitat for wildlife use.
3. Approximately 3,094 acres of unsatisfactory riparian habitat will be improved.
4. Approximately 1,110 acres of unsatisfactory riparian habitat will likely remain in unsatisfactory condition.
5. Approximately 637 acres of satisfactory riparian habitat will be maintained.
6. The condition of approximately 5,370 acres of big game winter range will be improved.
7. Approximately 14 miles of aquatic habitat in suboptimum condition will be improved.

C. Management Actions

1. Provide wildlife/fisheries habitat input into AMPs, CMPs, road/area closures, etc. (See Range Management portion of this chapter for a listing of existing and proposed AMPs and the Recreation portion for a listing of existing and proposed road closure areas. Also, see Appendix L for allotments containing wildlife objectives.)
2. Determine HMP or CMP, or project improvement needs; develop priorities and implement.

D. Standard Operating Procedures

1. General

Wildlife and fish habitat will be evaluated on an individual basis as a part of project level planning. Each evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed action and the magnitude of impacts to wildlife habitat. Appropriate stipulations or restrictions will be used to mitigate these impacts.

Habitat improvement and maintenance projects will be implemented where needed to stabilize or improve habitat conditions. These projects will be identified through coordinated resource activity plans. Improvement is based on ability of allotment management plans to achieve livestock control sufficient to maintain or improve riparian and winter range habitats.

2. Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

No activities will be permitted in habitat for threatened and endangered species that would jeopardize continued species existence. Whenever possible, management activities in threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will be consulted prior to actions that may affect threatened and endangered habitat. Whenever the BLM biological assessment process determines such habitat may be affected, consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated as per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Inventory and monitoring of occupied and potential threatened and endangered habitat will continue on the resource area.

3. Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

Road and area closures will be pursued for wildlife security and other resource values. Wildlife habitat goals and objectives will be included in all resource activity plans and projects that could affect wildlife habitat.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) will be consulted prior to vegetative manipulation projects in accordance with Supplement 1 of the Master Memorandum of Understanding, 1977. In addition, MDFWP will be consulted on timber harvest and timber stand improvement projects. All animal control programs will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MDFWP, and in the case of aerial gunning requests, with the Montana Department of Livestock.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore their natural functions, as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. Water crossings will be designed and installed to minimize sediment production and maintain adequate fish passage. Riparian habi-

tat management needs will be considered when developing grazing systems, locating roads, and during layout of timber management activities.

Where applicable, the Montana Cooperative Elk Logging Study recommendations (USDA, FS 1982) including any future revisions will be followed (see Appendix M). Also, where applicable, the recommendations of the *Cooperative Fish Management Plan for Public Lands in Montana* (MDFWP; USDI, BLM 1984) will be followed.

The resource area snag management policy will be followed.

E. Monitoring Requirements

For the wildlife program, monitoring will be directed at the biotic resource components using both temporary and permanent studies. The findings from these studies can be used to monitor responses in habitat condition and trend; monitor forage availability, composition, and vigor; monitor changes in cover and habitat effectiveness; and monitor habitat management objectives. Table 2-13 lists the items to be monitored.

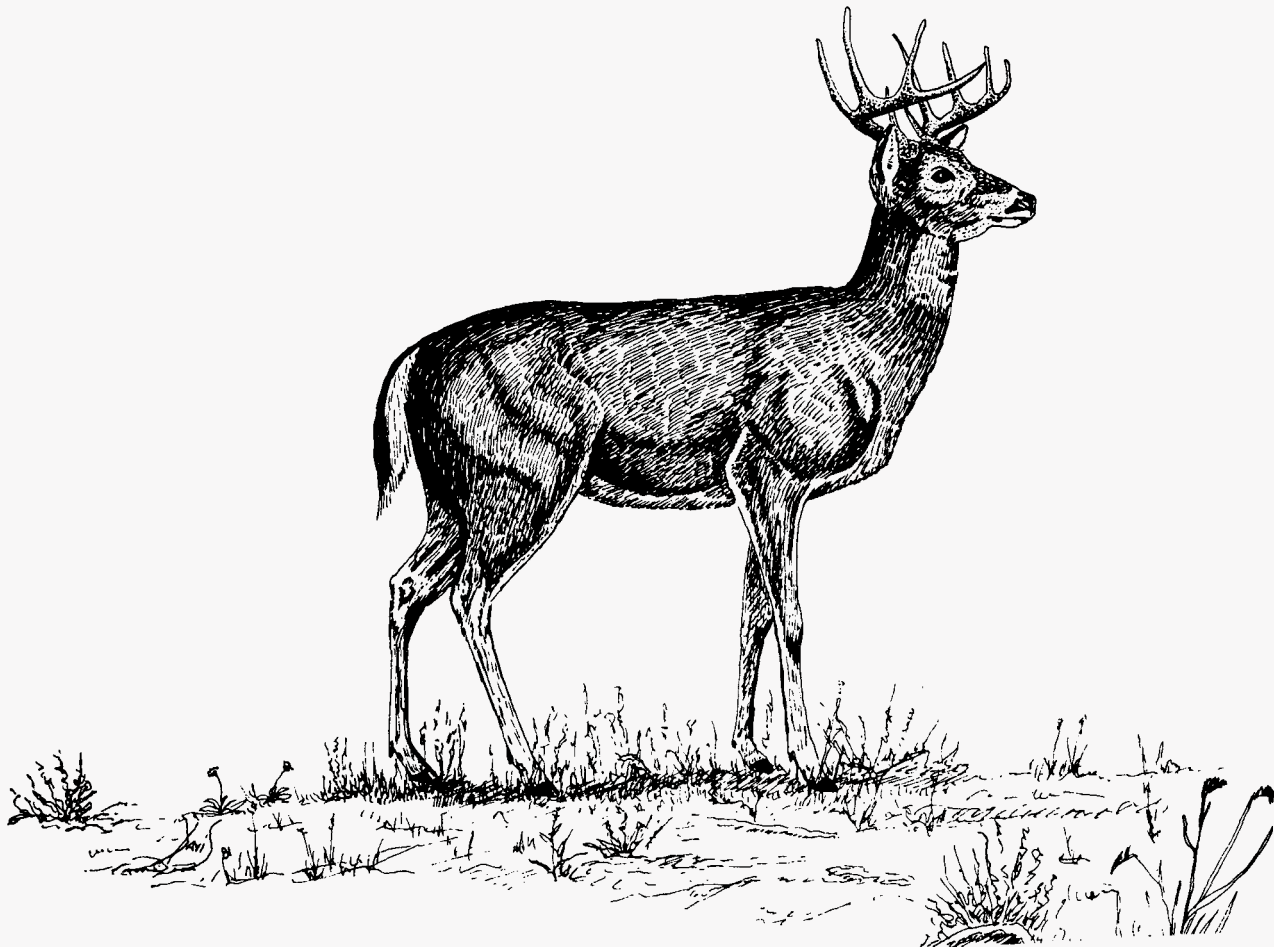


TABLE 2-13
WILDLIFE RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Fisheries Habitat | use by native cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and other trout species | MA 1, 2, and others where present | electro-shock, hook line, etc. as conducted by Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks | number and kind of fish per stream | to be coordinated with MDFWP information needs | a decline from the 3 yr. data base for native cutthroat |
| | habitat condition and trend for native cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and other trout species | MA 1, 2, and others where present | stream habitat analysis form 6671-5 | average % miles on BLM, pool/riffle, bank cover, bank stability | data base then once each 5-10 yrs.; also, pre and post disturbance survey | decline in habitat condition and trend |
| Threatened and Endangered Habitats | habitat use | bald eagle reproduction & wintering sites. Peregrine, grizzly bear and wolf-as identified by occurrence reports and recovery plans | bald eagle by aerial and/or field survey; other species by direct/indirect observation | number of sitings | bald eagle reproduction survey, 6 surveys mid-March thru July; winter roost and forage, 2-3 times from Dec. thru Feb.; other species when reported | 1-3 yr. downward trend in production or occupancy |
| | habitat condition and trend | bald eagle MA 1, 2, 6, 12 | Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan Survey levels ² | number of occupied/potential territories and roosts | once during base year and at 5-10 year intervals | 1-3 yr. downward trend in suitable territory characteristics |
| Nongame Habitat | use | raptor reproduction sites | nest site visitation and route surveys | number of birds or occupied nests | once annually prior, during and post resource activities | 1-3 yr. downward trend in production or occupancy |

TABLE 2-13
WILDLIFE RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

| Element | Item | Location | Technique ¹ | Unit of Measure | Frequency and Duration | Info. Warranting a Decision Change |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Riparian Habitat | condition and trend | MA 1, 2, 9 | photo plot, ³ cover board Daubenmire ⁴ aerial photo (IR) | % of total surface area, habitat characteristics | frequently while gathering 1 yr. data base for: AMP's with unsatisfactory riparian, improvement category allotments with unsatisfactory riparian and MA2 with planned timber harvest; read once per cycle in pastures with grazing system and once every 4 yrs. for allotments with no cycle i.e. same every year; read prior and once every year for 5 yrs. after timber harvest; monitor present satisfactory riparian when management action occurs | either deterioration or no improvement is noted in habitat that is presently in unsatisfactory condition, deterioration is noted in habitat presently in satisfactory condition |
| Big Game Habitat | seasonal habitat use | MA 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13 | aerial survey, FWP data, traditional use areas, telemetry and pellet group indices | distribution of big game animals and use | at least once before, during and after other resource activities | objectives for big game habitat not being met (see MA Goals) |
| | habitat component use | MA 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 | direct/indirect observation, time lapse photography | frequency and duration of use by big game animals | once a year for a 2-year data base, after activity period | objectives for big game habitat not being met (see MA Goals) |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| seasonal habitat and component condition and trend | MA 3, 4, 5, 6, 13 | tree, shrub, grass/forb Dauben- mire ⁴ cover board, densi- ometer, chip/weight, point center quarter, ⁵ production utilization, photo | % of annual growth and % change in vegetative structure and composition | each compo- nent at a 5 to 10 year inter- val for struc- tural composi- tion changes unless earlier alteration | objectives for big game habitat not be- ing met (see MA Goals) |
|--|----------------------|--|---|---|---|

¹ Monitoring activities between differing elements and within the same element will be conducted and/or coordinated so as to reduce duplications, travel time, etc. and thereby increase efficiency while reducing costs. The existing Studies Index System will also be used as a tool for tracking and scheduling monitoring plans.

² Montana Bald Eagle Working Group. 1983. Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan (draft) and Butte District Memo. July 25, 1984. "MBO Report-Bald Eagle." 68-40.3.

³ USDI. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1981. "Riparian Trend Station; Adoption of Vegetation Profile Board."

⁴ Daubenmire. 1959. "A Canopy Coverage Method of Vegetational Analysis." Northwest Science. 33(1): 43-64.

⁵ Mueller. 1974. Aims and Methods of Vegetation Ecology. J. Wiley and Sons. New York, NY.



CADASTRAL SURVEY PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

Maintain identification of public lands in support of resource programs.

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

None.

C. Management Actions

Continue to identify and prioritize survey requests in support of RMP allocations and resource programs.

D. Standard Operating Procedures

Cadastral surveys will continue to be conducted in support of resource management programs. Survey requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

E. Monitoring Requirements

None.

FIRE AND PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

1. In conformance with other resource uses, maintain the use of fire as a tool for consideration in vegetative and fuels management.
2. In conformance with other resource uses, maintain the use of pesticides for consideration as a management tool.

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. Prescribed fire will not be used on approximately 5,820 acres adjacent to stream channels and within developed and potential recreation sites.
2. Pesticides will not be considered for use within riparian areas.

C. Management Actions

1. Develop and implement a fire management plan.
2. Contingent upon the completion of worst case analysis by the BLM, prepare and implement a pesticide/herbicide use and monitoring plan.

D. Standard Operating Procedures

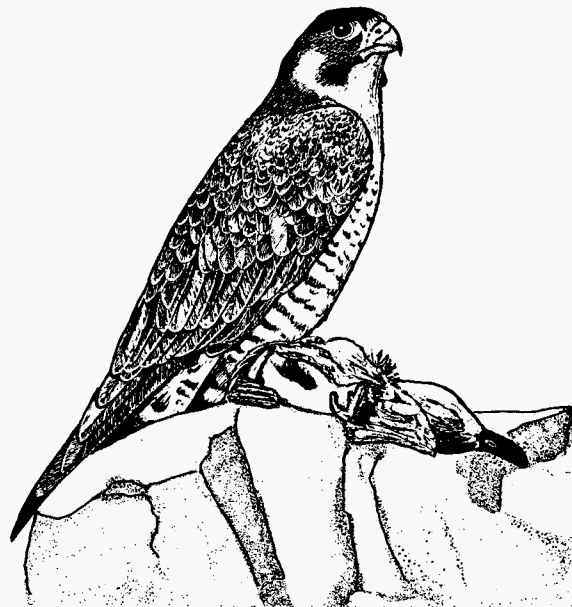
The primary fire protection objectives will be to prevent, detect, suppress, and monitor all fires on BLM lands. These objectives may be accomplished through contract with the Montana Department of State Lands.

A fire management plan will be prepared to establish areas in which the appropriate suppression action of control or confinement will be implemented for all fire starts. The plan may also identify areas and conditions where the use of heavy equipment is restricted or prohibited. Approval of the fire management plan will be based on consideration of values at risk; fire behavior; fire occurrence; beneficial fire effects, including but not limited to a reduction in fuel loading; fire suppression costs; and consistency with other agency plans and policies.

E. Monitoring Requirements

The use of fire and its effect on other resources and in meeting management objectives will be monitored. These will be addressed in the fire management plan.

The Garnet Noxious Weed Control Plan will include a monitoring plan.



ROAD AND TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM GUIDANCE

A. Resource Condition and Use Objectives

Improve access to public lands to meet resource management objectives and public use needs.

B. Resource or Land Use Allocations

1. Approximately 9,500 acres of public land have been identified as needing public access.
2. Approximately 8,150 acres of public land have been identified as needing administrative access.
3. Approximately 8,090 acres will remain legally inaccessible for public or administrative access.

C. Management Actions

1. Prioritize needs and seek public access, according to priorities, budget and other considerations, for approximately 9,500 acres of public land identified on Access Map in Garnet MSA.
2. Prioritize needs and seek administrative access, according to priorities, budget and other considerations, for approximately 8,150 acres of public land identified on Access Map in Garnet MSA.
3. Develop and maintain a transportation plan.

D. Standard Operating Procedures

Road and trail construction and maintenance will continue to be conducted in support of resource management objectives. Construction and maintenance requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Investment of public funds for road and trail construction generally will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. Exceptions may be allowed where investment costs can be recovered as a part of land disposal actions. Acquiring access or building roads to tracts outside the retention zones may be required for resource management activities such as timber sales.

Specific road and trail construction standards will be determined based on consideration of resource management needs; user safety; impacts to environmental values, including but not limited to wildlife and fisheries habitat, soil stability, recreation, and scenery; and construction and maintenance costs.

E. Monitoring

Access acquisition will be monitored annually in regard to meeting proposed management actions listed above.

